

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03651 020841Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /169 W

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R 020700Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7982

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE, US, FR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND BREZHNEV
VISIT

1. SUMMARY. IN JUNE 27 ADDRESS TO CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03651 020841Z

DEVOTED MAINLY TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE

SOLUTIONS, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE CALLED FOR UNITED EC POSITION IN COMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US. SECONDLY, EXPRESSING SOME UNEASINESS OVER RESULTS OF RECENT BREZHNEV VISIT TO US, VAN ELSLANDE CITED THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED EUROPEAN POSITION IN THE MILITARY AREA, NOTED THAT FRANCE HAD IN THE PAST BLOCKED COOPERATIVE DEFENSE EFFORTS, AND ASKED FOR FRENCH SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. VAN ELSLANDE, MENTIONING THE GATT KENNEDY ROUND, THE COMING "NIXON ROUND" AND THE KISSINGER SPEECH OF APRIL 23, RECOGNIZED THAT VARIOUS TRANSATLANTIC PROBLEMS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN APPROPRIATE FORUMS BUT SAID THAT THE EC NINE SHOULD FORMULATE HARMONIZED, IF NOT COMMON, POSITIONS ON ALL SUBJECTS AND IN EACH FORUM. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT SIMPLY A PIOUS BELGIAN WISH BUT RATHER A VALID EXPECTATION BASED ON THE LUXEMBOURG REPORT OF 1970 ON POLITICAL COOPERATION. HE NOTED THAT THE NINE HAD PROVED THEIR COHESION IN HELSINKI VIS-A-VIS THE EAST AND SAID IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT LESS CAN BE ACHIEVED VIS-A-VIS THE US, "WITH WHICH WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN EXTREMELY CLOSE TIES."

3. ADMITTEDLY DIGRESSING FROM HIS PRINCIPLE SUBJECT AT THE END OF HIS ADDRESS, VAN ELSLANDE HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY WITH RESPECT TO THE TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND BREZHNEV.

A. "THESE CONVERSATIONS YIELDED RESULTS CERTAIN OF WHICH WERE UNEXPECTED BY US. WE CERTAINLY KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ACCELERATION OF WORK RELATED TO THE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS, BUT THEY DID NOT LET US KNOW THAT AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE RENUNCIATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS WOULD BE SIGNED. HOW NOT TO REJOICE THAT THE TWO STRONGEST NUCLEAR POWERS IN THE WORLD AGREE TO SEEK THE MEANS FOR NOT USING NUCLEAR ARMS? BUT IT IS EQUALLY FITTING TO NOTE THE TERRIBLE SUFFERING PROVOKED IN THE LAST CENTURIES BY CONVENTIONAL WAR. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE PEACE WHICH WE HAVE ENJOYED IN EUROPE DURING ALMOST 30 YEARS HAS BEEN FAVORED BY THE CONVICTION THAT RECOURSE TO ARMS WOULD PROVOKE A NUCLEAR APOCALYPSE.

B. "IT IS NOW NECESSARY THEREFORE TO ASK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN AGREEMENT OF THIS TYPE AND THE INFLUENCE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03651 020841Z

THAT IT CAN HAVE ON A STRATEGY FOR OUR DEFENSE OF EUROPE. IT IS THUS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER OUR DEFENSE PROBLEMS AND IT IS FITTING THAT ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GIVE THEIR THOUGHT TO THIS SUBJECT. I HAVE REVIEWED WITH CARE WHAT M. JOBERT HAS JUST SAID TO THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT. WE TOO NOTE THAT WITHOUT THE FRENCH PARTNER IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEFINE A EUROPEAN POSITION IN THE MILITARY FIELD, AND WE ALSO NOTE THAT ATTEMPTS MADE

IN THE PAST HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH POSITION.
IT SEEMS TO ME, THEREFORE, THAT THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR OUR
FRENCH PARTNER TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO US AND IT IS THIS THAT
WE ASK OF HER.

C. "IT WOULD LIKE TO FINISH BY SAYING THAT WE HAVE NO MISTRUST
VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES. WE NOTE THAT OUR SYSTEM OF
SECURITY, AS I SAID TO THE SENATE, HAS CREDIBILITY ONLY TO THE
EXTENT THAT IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION.
BUT WE KNOW THAT THE DIALOGUE WILL BE THOROUGH AND EASILY
ACCOMPLISHED ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THE PARTNERS HAVE
COMPARABLE STATUS. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE INDIVIDUAL
DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPEAN STATES AND THE UNITED STATES
IS NOT EASY, AND THAT DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AS SUCH AND
THE UNITED STATES CAN BRING RESULTS. THIS IS WHAT WE NEED.

D. "IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO ORGANIZE
OURSELVES ON A EUROPEAN LEVEL IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THAT THE
PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS US ESSENTIALLY IS TREATED WITH OUR FULL
PARTICIPATION." STRAUZ-HUPE

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